

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 110967

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, US, KE

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH KENYAN AMBASSADOR ON U.S.
ASSISTANCE TO NORTHEAST KENYA

1. AS PART OF FOLLOW-UP ON PRM 21 CONSIDERATION OF HORN
OF AFRICA POLICY, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE MET
WITH KENYAN AMBASSADOR MBOGUA MAY 11. SEELYE REVIEWED
DEVELOPMENTS IN HORN AREA LEADING TO RE-EXAMINATION OF
U.S. POLICY ALTERNATIVES. HE NOTED THAT ONE OUTCOME HAS
BEEN EFFORT TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT OF U.S.-SOMALI
RELATIONS, SUBJECT WHICH WE KNOW IS OF INTEREST
TO KENYA BECAUSE OF KENYANS' OWN PROBLEMS WITH SOMALIA
ORIGINATING FROM SOMALI IRREDENTIST CLAIMS ON KENYAN
TERRITORY.

2. SEELYE STATED U.S. HOPED OVER LONG RUN THAT POSSIBLE
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IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-SOMALI RELATIONS MIGHT EASE PROCESS OF
ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN SOMALIA AND KENYA. HOWEVER, IN
MEANTIME U.S. WISHED ASSURE GOK THAT U.S. MOVES TOWARD
SOMALIA IN NO WAY IMPLY LESSENED U.S. INTEREST IN AND
SUPPORT FOR KENYA. WE REGARD OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH KENYA
AS LONG-STANDING AND FIRMLY BASED.

3. WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIC PROBLEM OF SOMALI IRREDENTISM CENTERED ON ETHNIC SOMALI-INHABITED NORTHEASTERN KENYA, SEELYE TOLD MBOGUA THAT U.S. INTERESTED IN ASSISTING KENYAN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AIMED AT FIRING PRO-KENYAN ORIENTATION OF THESE PEOPLE. HE REFERRED TO CURRENT DOLS. 9.5 MILLION LOAN TO KENYA'S LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PRIMARILY FOCUSSED ON THIS REGION OF KENYA, AND IMMINENT SIGNING OF DOLS. 3.25 MILLION ADDITION TO THIS LOAN SPECIFICALLY EARMARKED FOR RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT IN SOMALI-INHABITED NORTHEASTERN PROVINCE. HE ADDED THAT WE WERE WILLING TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL PROJECTS IN THIS REGION IF KENYAN GOVERNMENT WISHED TO MAKE PROPOSALS ALONG THESE LINES, AND SAID WE WELCOMED MBOGUA'S AND GOK'S VIEWS.

4. MBOGUA RESPONDED THAT HE WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THIS EXPRESSION OF U.S. INTEREST IN AN AREA OF PARTICULARLY ACUTE PROBLEMS WHICH HE HAD MENTIONED IN PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. HE NOTED THAT NOT ONLY USAID BUT WORLD BANK, EEC AND OTHER DONORS WERE ALREADY ACTIVE IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THIS REGION, BUT SAID A MORE BROADLY CONCEIVED PROGRAM FOR OVERALL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEEMED DESIRABLE. HIS PERSONAL CONCEPT WOULD INVOLVE DEVELOPMENT OF SECOND MAJOR PORT AT LAMU, IMPROVEMENT OF LAND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN LAMU AND INTERIOR OF NORTHEAST, AND EXPANSION OF IRRIGATION ACTIVITIES NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN ALONG TANA RIVER WITH OBJECTIVE OF OPENING REGION TO COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN ADDITION TO ENDING DROUGHT/FLOOD CYCLE LONG AFFLICTING

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POOR LOCAL RESIDENTS. HE HOPED U.S. MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING SUCH A SCHEME IF UNDERTAKEN BY GOK.

5. SEELYE RESPONDED THAT U.S. AID FUNDING IS NOT NOW GENERALLY AVAILABLE FOR LARGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS SUCH AS THE SUGGESTED DEVELOPMENT OF LAMU PORT, BUT THAT THE KINDS OF PROJECTS MANDATED BY CONGRESS DEALING WITH RURAL POOR MIGHT WELL FIT INTO SUCH AN OVERALL SCHEME. SEELYE ASKED IF GOK HAD ENDEAVORED TO ENLIST ARAB SUPPORT FOR SUCH DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (SAUDI INTEREST IN AGRICULTURAL SUPPLIES IN PARTICULAR WAS NOTED); MBOGUA SAID HE BELIEVED KENYAN FONMIN WAS AT THAT MOMENT VISITING ARAB COUNTRIES IN EFFORT TO IMPROVE TIES AND EXPLORE POSSIBLE COOPERATION. SEELYE MENTIONED HIS OWN UPCOMING TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST FOR DISCUSSIONS OF HORN SITUATION, AND OFFERED TO MAKE REFERENCE TO KENYAN INTEREST IF THIS MIGHT SUPPORT GOK'S OWN EFFORTS. MBOGUA THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE VERY HELPFUL.

6. IT WAS SUGGESTED TO MBOGUA THAT FURTHER EXPLORATION OF THESE SUBJECTS SHOULD INVOLVE, AT AN EARLY DATE, CONTACTS BETWEEN KENYAN PLANNERS IN NAIROBI AND USAID/ KENYA, AS THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES TO DEVELOP AND MANAGE POSSIBLE PROJECTS IN THE AREAS DISCUSSED. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT, SHOULD THERE BE INTEREST ON PART OF GOK IN THESE IDEAS, THIS INTEREST SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO USAID. CHRISTOPHER

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